GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4316
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2002
WITHDRAWAL OF COMMODITIES FROM ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES LIST
SUBODH MOHITE

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are considering withdrawal of powers conferred by it on State Governments and removal of some of the items from the list of commodities declared as essential under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to introduce direct income support to farmers instead of the existing minimum support price scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD)

(a) & (b): The Central Government has issued an Order under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 allowing dealers to freely buy, stock, sell, transport, distribute, etc. any quantity in respect of wheat, paddy/rice, coarse grains, sugar, edible oilseeds and edible oils without requiring a permit or license therefor under any order issued under the Act. The Order took effect after thirty days from the date of its issue (15.2.2002) notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any Order made by a State Government before the commencement of the Order.

The Government have also removed the following items from the list of commodities declared as essential under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:

1. Cement

2. Textiles Machinery:-

(i) Knitting Machine,
(ii) Spinning Machine,
(iii) Lace Making Machine,

(iv) Powerloom and
(v) Processing Machinery.

3. Textiles made from silk

4. Textiles made wholly or in part from man-made cellulosic and non-cellulosic spun fibres.

5. Textiles made wholly or in part from man-made cellulosic and non-cellulosic filament yarn.
6. General Lighting Service Lamps.

7 Household appliances such as electric irons, heaters and the like.

8. Electrical Cables and Wires.

9. Man-made cellulosic and non-cellulosic Staple fibres.
10. Yarn made wholly or in part from any of the following materials, namely:-

(i) wool,
(ii) man-made cellulosic spun fibre,
(iii) man-made non-cellulosic spun fibre,

(iv) silk.
11.
(i) Man-made cellulosic and Non-cellulosic filament yarn,
(ii) Nylon Tyre
Yarn/Cord/Fabric.
12.
(i) Switches for domestic and similar purposes
(ii) 2-AMP Switches,

(iii) 3-Pin Plugs and Sockets outlets.

(c) to (e): No concrete proposal in this regard is under consideration of the Government.